

# Arms and Armour of the Ancient Classical World in New Zealand Collections



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# Arms and Amour of the Ancient Classical World in New Zealand Collections

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Cover Image: DG 337, Pseudo Corinthian Helmet, ca. 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, © Doug and Anemarie Gold

## Overview

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The purpose of this guide is to provide an educational resource for anyone wanting to learn more about ancient classical artefacts held in New Zealand, and specifically to explore the arms and armour used in antiquity.

Due to the limited number of relevant artefacts in New Zealand collections, we have chosen to include objects from a wide range of dates, roughly 3000 BC to 600 AD. There are even some objects that could be dated as far back as the Neolithic period.

The artefacts included in this resource also come from a very wide geographical area, stretching the boundaries of the traditional ancient classical world. There are examples from across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. All these artefacts are held in New Zealand, mostly in museums around the country, alongside a few items from private collections. Those in private collections will be less accessible than the objects in public collections.

Although this resource contains most of the relevant examples of classical arms and armour in Aotearoa, we do not claim that this is a definitive list. There will be artefacts that, for various reasons, were not found during the creation of the resource, but at publication it is the most comprehensive record available.

## Format

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There are three main categories of ancient arms and armour in this resource: *Projectile and Throwing Weapons*; *Edged and Bladed Weapons*; and *Armour*. We have attempted to include information about each specific object in this resource, as well as providing some general information about the item type for more context.

Key catalogue information for each object (including title, date, provenance, material, dimensions, description, and accession number) has been drawn directly from the controlling institution's records and is shown as they have provided it.

To maintain consistency with online catalogue records, all dates have been designated as BC or AD, rather than BCE or CE.

Below the key catalogue information for each object is an interpretation, which includes further findings suggested by research, along with details which confirm or update the catalogue information, and general background information about the item type. It should be noted that many of the interpretations are possibilities and not certainties, as most of the interpretations were made without firsthand examination of the artefacts.

Each entry is accompanied by an image, most of which have been supplied by the controlling institutions under a Commons Free licence. Attributions, credit lines, and conditions of use for images are detailed below each image.

# Projectile and Throwing Weapons

Projectile weapons are often classed as ranged or missile weapons, as they were used to attack from a distance rather than up close. In the ancient world this form of warfare was most popular amongst the Persians. In warfare it was often best for archers or slingers to avoid being engaged in any close-quarters fighting, as they were usually lightly armoured and equipped, and projectiles are not as much use up close. As well as being utilised for warfare, projectiles were also used often for hunting. It is likely that harpoons were almost solely used for this purpose.

This section highlights the projectile and throwing weapons that are held in New Zealand collections. The majority of these examples are arrowheads, but there are some other forms of projectiles such as harpoons, slingshot stones, and spear points. Most of these come from the Eastern Mediterranean area, having mostly Greek, Egyptian or Persian heritage.

Since most of the projectiles included here are arrowheads, it is useful to briefly explain how arrows were made. An ancient arrow was made by attaching an arrowhead to a shaft either with a tang set into a hollow shaft, or alternatively with the shaft set into the socket of an arrowhead, after which the shaft would be bound into place.

# Arrowheads and Spear Points

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## Title: Spear Point [Arrowhead]

Date: 400 BC

Provenance: Greece

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Length 51mm; Width 16mm;  
Depth 11mm

Collection: Auckland War Memorial Museum

Accession number: 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Three ridges with hollow shaft.

**Interpretation:** Given its small size and form, this object is likely to be an arrowhead rather than a spear point as suggested in the original cataloguing information. It is more typical of the size of an arrowhead<sup>1</sup>. This is probably a rib-bladed bilobate (double lobed) arrowhead, which were known to be popular in ancient Greece, and making it possible that the arrowhead was indeed made or found in Greece.

Arrowheads of this type came into use in mainland Greece by the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and continued to be used until around 250 BC. The estimated date of 400 BC in the cataloguing information falls squarely into this period. This arrowhead has a socket, allowing a wooden shaft to be inserted into it, forming the arrow.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-30784](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-30784)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14, 51348.1

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



## Title: Spear Point [Arrowhead]

Date: Circa 500 BC

Provenance: Greece

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Length 57mm; Width 21mm;  
Depth 6mm

Collection: Auckland War Memorial Museum

Accession number: Accessioned 23 January 1985, other number 51357

**Catalogue Description:** Narrow point, solid shaft extends to the tip of the point, mould made.

**Interpretation:** This artefact is more likely to be an arrowhead rather than a spear point, as suggested by the original cataloguing information. At 57mm in length, it is smaller than the average spearpoint.<sup>2</sup> This is possibly a bilobate (double lobed) arrowhead shape with a tang. The arrow would have been formed by the tang being inserted into a reed or a hollow wooden shaft.

Although the original catalogue entry suggests that it may actually be of Greek origin, the shape suggests it may be an Achaemenid-Egyptian variant of the bilobate arrowhead from 550 to 400 BC. The original catalogue information hasn't stated where this arrowhead was found but, it is possible that it was attributed to the Greeks because it was found in Greece. If this is the case, it is possible that the arrowhead ended up in Greece during the Achaemenid invasion of Greece which occurred around the time to which the arrowhead is dated.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-840891](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-840891)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 51357.4

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



## Title: Spear Point [Arrowhead]

Date: Circa 500 BC

Provenance: Greece

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Length 67mm; Width 20mm;  
Depth 8mm

Collection: Auckland War Memorial Museum

Accession number: Accessioned 23 January 1985, other number 51357.3

**Catalogue Description:** Minoan spear point in bronze made in one piece with a shaft added as a secondary process, ridge longitudinally down each side, cross section lozenge shaped.

**Interpretation:** This bronze artefact is probably not a spear point, as suggested in the original cataloguing information, but is more likely an arrowhead<sup>3</sup>. It resembles what is known as a barbed arrowhead. The arrowhead type seems to be of Cretan origins, which supports the suggestion in the Auckland Museum records that it is Minoan.

The barbed arrowhead type most likely came into use around 650 BC and was popular into the Hellenistic period, so a date of ca. 500 BC is possible. The arrow would have been formed by the tang of the arrowhead being inserted into a reed or a hollow wooden shaft.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-840887](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-840887)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 51357.3

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY

<sup>1</sup> For a comparable example, see this arrowhead from the National Museums in Berlin, Antiquities Collection, <https://id.smb.museum/object/697218>

<sup>2</sup> For a comparable example, see this arrowhead from the National Museums in Berlin, Antiquities Collection, <https://id.smb.museum/object/827891>

<sup>3</sup> For a comparable example, see this arrowhead from the National Museums in Berlin, Antiquities Collection, <https://id.smb.museum/object/695752>





**Title: Spear Point [Arrowhead]**

**Date:** Circa 500 BC

**Provenance:** Greece

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 79mm; Width 35mm; Depth 7mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** Accessioned 23 January 1985, other number 51357.2

**Catalogue Description:** Flares out from point and returns to shaft with rounded edge. Elongated rounded shaft extends to the tip of the point. Mould made.

**Interpretation:** Although this artefact has been identified as a spear point in the original cataloguing information, the object is likely to be an arrowhead. Research indicates it may be a bilobate (double lobed) arrowhead shape with a tang. The object has a similar shape to known arrowheads and is a typical arrowhead length.<sup>4</sup> The shape suggests this may be an Achaemenid-Egyptian variant of the bilobate arrowhead from 550 to 400 BC, rather than being a specific ancient Greek shape.

Although we cannot be sure exactly where the arrowhead was found, it is possible that it was discovered in Greece. If this is the case, it is possible that the arrowhead ended up in Greece during an Achaemenid invasion which occurred around the time to which this arrowhead is dated. The arrow would have been formed by the tang being inserted into a wooden hollow shaft or inserted into a reed.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-840885](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-840885)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 51357.2

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Spear Point [Arrowhead]**

**Date:** Approximately 400 BC

**Provenance:** Greece

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 34mm; Width 12mm; Depth 10mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** other number 51348.2

**Catalogue Description:** Three projections in a star shape, with a short hollow shaft.

**Interpretation:** This artefact is likely to be an arrowhead rather than a spear point, as suggested in the original catalogue information. It is significantly smaller than a typical spear point but is around the same length as similar arrowhead types.<sup>5</sup> The arrowhead may be a trilobate type, which had Scythian origins. It looks similar to both the Archaic Greek and the Achaemenid-Persian versions of the shape. Both Achaemenid and Archaic Greek variants have the same date range of 550 to 330 BC.

It is difficult to tell where this specific arrowhead is from, but the Greek attribution by Auckland Museum indicates that it was likely found in Greece. The trilobate arrowhead type was most notably used by the Greek and Persian archers at the battle of Marathon in 490 BC. This arrowhead has a socket. A wooden shaft could be inserted into the socket to form the arrow.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-840882](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-840882)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 51348.2

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Spear Point [Arrowhead]**

**Date:** Middle Minoan (Circa 2000 BC)

**Provenance:** Greece

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 69mm; Width 26mm; Depth 12mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** Accession date 23 January 1985, other number 51358

**Catalogue Description:** Rounded end. Hollow shaft longer than the point at 35 mm. Shaft has V-shaped gap on the one side where a flat sheet of bronze has been wrapped around.

**Interpretation:** Although it is described as a spear point in the original cataloguing information, this object is most likely an arrowhead given its short length and rounded tip. It appears to be a conical or cone-head type arrowhead and was likely used in the Bronze Age. It is similar to other rounded-tip arrowheads which have been attributed to the Bronze Age.<sup>6</sup> Little is known about this unique type of arrowhead.

Auckland Museum records suggest this artefact is Minoan, which means it could be from Crete or possibly from one of the Cycladic Islands. This arrowhead has a socket into which a wooden shaft could be inserted to form the arrow.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-842223](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-842223)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 51358.5

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY

<sup>4</sup> For a comparable example see the National Museums in Berlin, Antiquities Collection, <https://id.smb.museum/object/827891>

<sup>5</sup> For a comparable example see the National Museums in Berlin, Antiquities Collection, <https://id.smb.museum/object/827880>

<sup>6</sup> See a comparable example in the British Museum collection, [https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H\\_1889-0704-134](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1889-0704-134)



**Title: Projectile Point [Spear Point]**

**Date:** Circa 2500 BC

**Provenance:** Ur, Mesopotamia

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 246mm; Width 11mm; Depth 7mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Tapers to a rounded point. Shape of long axis changes from square to flattened around the midline.

**Interpretation:** This projectile point is too thin to have been an arrowhead during the Bronze Age, suggesting it may instead have been used as a spear point. The projectile is tanged. It would have been inserted into a long wooden shaft to form a spear.

This point does share similarities to comparative Sumerian spear point finds, particularly those found at Ur (ancient city in lower Mesopotamia), which supports the provenance given to it in the Auckland Museum catalogue.<sup>7</sup>

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-30839](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-30839)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Spear Point [Arrowhead]**

**Date:** Circa 2000 BC (Middle Minoan)

**Provenance:** [Greece]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 99mm; Width 26mm; Depth 13mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** Accession date 23 January 1985, other number 51358.4

**Catalogue Description:** Tapers to a rounded point. Shaft is hollow, and one side is broken away.

**Interpretation:** This artefact is probably an arrowhead, not a spear point. This re-classification is suggested by the short length and similarity to a popular shape of arrowhead used throughout the ancient Eastern Mediterranean.

It is likely a bilobate (double-lobed) arrowhead with a lanceolate form (oval shape with pointed ends), which were common during the Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean. The shape supports the catalogue date of ca. 2000 BC, and if it is Middle Minoan the arrowhead is possibly from Crete. This is a socketed arrowhead, meaning a wooden shaft would have been inserted into the socket to form the arrow.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-842222](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-842222)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 51358.4

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Spear Head**

**Date:** [2345-2181 BC] (Dynasty VI)

**Provenance:** Matmar, Egypt

**Material:** Copper

**Dimensions:** Length 172mm; Width 29mm; Depth 7mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** 1932.558

**Catalogue Description:** Bronze spear head. Small remains of a tang at the end of the spear. Heavily corroded. From the Guy Brunton expedition, No 350.

**Interpretation:** A spear would have been formed by inserting the tang of this spear point into either a reed or a hollow wooden shaft.

The fact that this spear point is identified as being made from copper supports the catalogue date of pre 2000 BC. Presumably, the specific date of 2345-2181 BC came from the archaeological reports on the Matmar graves site, as the archaeologists would have been able to determine the dates of objects being found based on the other contents of the graves.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-502276](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-502276)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1932.558, 18750

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY

<sup>7</sup> See also a similar example in the British Museum, [https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W\\_1928-1009-229](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W_1928-1009-229)





**Title: Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Neolithic period]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Flint

**Dimensions:** Length 40mm; Width 28mm; Depth 7mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1942.106

**Catalogue Description:** Arrowhead. Concave Base.

**Interpretation:** This object is most likely a very early arrowhead, given its shape and the fact it is made out of flint. The early date of this arrowhead also means that it was possibly used for hunting rather than for warfare.

Arrowheads like this would have been lashed to a reed to make an arrow.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-83960](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-83960)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1942.106, 26618.1

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY Museum CC BY



**Title: Projectile Point**

**Date:** [Probably Neolithic period]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Stone

**Dimensions:** Length 40mm; Width 10mm; Depth 6mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1947.49

**Catalogue Description:** The object is a stone projectile point with retouch on the margins. The base is convex, and the shoulder has an upward angle. The stem is contracting, and the object only appears to be shaped along one side.

**Interpretation:** This stone point is most likely the head of an arrow. The stone would have been tied to a reed to create an arrow. The projectile has a very early given date, which we have no reason to question. It is thought that arrows of this type were primarily used for hunting.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-77101](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-77101)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1947.49, 28628.7

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**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E30.137

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This is probably a Greek rib-bladed bilobate arrowhead in a lanceolate shape. These came into use by Greek peoples by the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC and were introduced by the Scythians. Although this arrowhead was found in Egypt, it is likely Greek in design.

Arrowheads such as this were used by Greek mercenaries working for King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt. Psammetichus reigned from 664–610 BC, which provides a probable guide as to the date of this arrowhead.

This arrowhead has a socket. A shaft would have been inserted into the socket to create the whole arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E30.137]

**Copyright:** Otago Museum, All Rights Reserved



**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E96.45

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This is probably a barbed bilobate arrowhead. This type of arrowhead was used by Greek mercenaries for King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt. Psammetichus reigned from 664-610 BC, giving a likely date range for the arrowhead. Barbed arrowheads were not that popular amongst the Greeks by the 7<sup>th</sup> century, but they were still in use. It is also possible that this arrowhead is Egyptian or Persian. The arrowhead is tanged, so it could be inserted into a reed or hollow wooden shaft to form the whole arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E96.45]

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved



**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E96.43

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This is a trilobate arrowhead which the Greeks began using around 630 BC. It is most likely to be of Greek design. However, trilobate arrowheads were also very popular in the East, so it is also possible that this arrowhead is of Egyptian or Persian origin.

We can speculate that it may have been used by Greek mercenaries who worked for King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt, who reigned from 664-610 BC, indicating a possible time period to which this arrow dates. This arrowhead has a socket. A wooden shaft would have been inserted into the socket to form the arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E96.43]

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved



**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E96.42

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This is probably a trilobate arrowhead, although it could be a rib bladed bilobate arrowhead. Likely to be of Greek origin, although it is still possible that it is Egyptian, given the find location.

This type of arrowhead was used by Greek mercenaries working for King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt. Psammetichus reigned from 664-610 BC, indicating a possible date range. This arrowhead has a socket so a wooden shaft would have been inserted into the socket to form the arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E96.42]

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved



**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E96.41

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This is probably a trilobate arrowhead which was used by the Greeks from around 630 BC onwards. It is most likely to be of Greek design. However, trilobate arrowheads were also very popular in the East, so it is also possible that this arrowhead is Egyptian or Persian.

Greek mercenaries working for King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt might have used arrowheads of this type. Psammetichus reigned from 664-610 BC, indicating a possible date range for the arrowhead. This arrowhead has a socket. A wooden shaft would have been inserted into the socket to form the arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E96.41]

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved



**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E96.44

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This is probably a rib bladed bilobate arrowhead, although it is possible that it could be a trilobate arrowhead. It is likely to be of Greek origins, although it is possible that it is of Persian or Egyptian design.

Arrowheads of this type were used by Greek mercenaries employed by King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt. Psammetichus reigned from 664-610 BC, so the date of this arrowhead should lie somewhere in this range. A wooden shaft would have been inserted into the arrowhead's socket to form the arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E96.44]

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved



**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E96.46

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This is probably a trilobate arrowhead, although it could be a rib bladed bilobate arrowhead. This arrowhead bears greater resemblance to an Eastern style of trilobate rather than Greek, so it may possibly be a Persian or Egyptian design.

Arrowheads of this type were used by Greek mercenaries working for King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt. The date range for this arrowhead is 664-610 as this is when King Psammetichus ruled. This arrowhead is socketed. A wooden shaft would have been inserted into the socket to form the arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E96.46]

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**Title: Bronze Arrow Point**

**Date:** [Circa 7<sup>th</sup> century BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E96.47

**Catalogue Description:** Tel. el. Daphnis {From the camp of the Greek mercenaries of Psammetichus [also known as Psammetichus]]. Bronze arrow point or possibly spearpoint.

**Interpretation:** This looks to be a wide barbed trilobate arrowhead. It is a unique design.

Arrowheads of this type were used by Greek mercenaries working for King Psammetichus (Psamtik I) of Egypt. Psammetichus ruled from 664-610 BC, so this arrowhead could be dated to that period. The socket of this arrowhead allows for a shaft to be inserted into it to form the arrow.

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Otago Museum, E96.47]

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**Title: Arrowhead**

[1<sup>st</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt, near Magaga

**Material:** Copper/Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 30-42mm

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** 1953.1.18

**Catalogue Description:** Small socketed copper bronze arrowhead.

**Interpretation:** This looks to be a rib-bladed bilobate type arrowhead, which was in use from 750-30 BC. It could possibly be Egyptian in design but usually arrowheads like this are associated with the Greeks. If this is correct, the arrowhead may date to the Hellenistic period, when the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty ruled over Egypt (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC). The arrowhead is socketed so that a wooden shaft could be inserted into it to create an arrow.

**Credit Line:** 'Discovered' by H W Seton Kerr,<sup>8</sup> 20 miles east of Magaga, Egypt. (Seton Kerr was based in Egypt with British forces prior to WW1).

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved

**Title: Arrowhead**

[2<sup>nd</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt, near Magaga

**Material:** Copper/Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 30-42mm

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** EA1978.284.2

**Catalogue Description:** Small socketed copper bronze arrowhead.

**Interpretation:** This looks to be a rib-bladed bilobate type arrowhead. The date of this arrowhead is probably somewhere between 750-30 BC as this is when this form of arrow was used. Usually, arrowheads of this design are Greek, and this would suggest that the arrowhead could be attributed to the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC), although it is also possible that the arrow is Egyptian. We can be certain at least that the arrowhead was used by someone in Egypt.

The socket at the bottom of the arrow allows for a wooden shaft to be inserted into it to form the whole arrow.

**Credit Line:** 'Discovered' by H W Seton Kerr,<sup>9</sup> 20 miles east of Magaga, Egypt. (Seton Kerr was based in Egypt with British forces prior to WW1).

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8 This is possibly Heywood Walter Seton-Karr 1859-1938

9 This is possibly Heywood Walter Seton-Karr 1859-1938

**Title: Arrowhead**

[3<sup>rd</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt, near Magaga

**Material:** Copper/Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 30-42mm

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** EA1978.284.3

**Catalogue Description:** Small socketed copper bronze arrowhead.

**Interpretation:** This looks to be a rib-bladed bilobate arrowhead. Rib-bladed bilobate arrowheads were commonly used from 750 BC to 30 BC, which provides a probable date range.

Although this arrowhead was found in Egypt, the design is most commonly Greek. It is therefore possible that the arrowhead belongs to the Greek Ptolemaic dynastic period (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC). This arrowhead has a socket. A wooden shaft would be inserted into the socket to form the arrow.

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**Title: Arrowhead**

[4<sup>th</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt, near Magaga

**Material:** Copper/Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 30-42mm

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** EA1978.284.4

**Catalogue Description:** Small socketed copper bronze arrowhead.

**Interpretation:** This looks to be a rib-bladed bilobate arrowhead. This type of arrowhead was used from 750 BC to 30 BC and was commonly a Greek design. Given that it was found in Egypt, it could still be an Egyptian arrow, but it is probable that it comes from the Greek Ptolemaic period (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC) due to its possible Greek form.

A wooden shaft would be inserted into the socket at the base of the arrowhead to form a complete arrow.

<sup>10</sup> This is possibly Heywood Walter Seton-Karr 1859-1938

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**Title: Arrowhead**

[5<sup>th</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** 1953.11.4

**Catalogue Description:** Bronze socketed arrowhead.

**Interpretation:** This looks to be a rib-bladed bilobate arrowhead with a socket into which a wooden shaft could be inserted to form the arrow. The date of this arrowhead is probably between 750 BC to 30 BC. The bilobate design was in use during this period.

The find location confirms this arrowhead was used in Egypt but it may not be of Egyptian origin as this type of arrowhead is usually attributed to the Greeks. A possible explanation is that this arrowhead dates to the period during the rule of the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC).

**Credit Line:** Gifted anonymously

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved

**Title: Arrowhead**

[6<sup>th</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt, near Magaga

**Material:** Copper/Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** EA1979.145

**Catalogue Description:** Barbed arrowhead with long shaft.

**Interpretation:** This is a rhombic barbed arrowhead with a triangular projection at its base. Arrowheads of this kind can date to as early as 1200 BC. However, because it was found with arrowheads dating from 750 BC to 30 BC, this suggests a very early date is unlikely. There is evidence of similar types of arrowheads being used by Egyptians,

<sup>11</sup> This is possibly Heywood Walter Seton-Karr 1859-1938

although this looks very similar to the Greek barbed arrowhead. In addition, Greek barbed arrowheads were often used in the Hellenistic period when the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty ruled over Egypt (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC). This suggests the most likely time period for the object.

The tang at the bottom of the arrowhead would be inserted into a hollow shaft, possibly reed or wood, to form an arrow.

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**Title: Arrowhead**

[7<sup>th</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt, near Magaga

**Material:** Copper/Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** 1953.1.15

**Catalogue Description:** Barbed arrowhead with long shaft.

**Interpretation:** This is a rhombic barbed arrowhead with a triangular projection at its base. Similar forms of this arrowhead date to as early as 1200 BC. However, because this item was found with arrowheads that date to between 750 BC to 30 BC, an earlier date is unlikely. These types of arrowheads were used by Egyptians, but this arrowhead looks more similar to the Greek versions which were popular during the Hellenistic period. This suggests, like the other arrowheads from the same find, this arrowhead could have been used during the rule of the Ptolemies in Egypt (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC).

This arrowhead is tanged rather than socketed. The tang of the arrowhead would be inserted into a hollow shaft of wood or reed.

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<sup>12</sup> This is possibly Heywood Walter Seton-Karr 1859-1938

<sup>13</sup> This is possibly Heywood Walter Seton-Karr 1859-1938



**Title: Arrowhead**

[8<sup>th</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** [1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC]

**Provenance:** Egypt, near Magaga

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** 1953.1.7

**Catalogue Description:** Socketed copper arrowhead with three faces.

**Interpretation:** This could be a trilobate arrowhead. Trilobate arrowheads date from 630-30 BC and were commonly used by Persians and Greeks. This arrowhead was found in Egypt with other arrowheads that could be from the Hellenistic period when the Greek Ptolemaic dynasty was in power (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> century BC). It is possible then that this arrowhead is a Greek version of the trilobate arrowhead used in Ptolemaic Egypt.

This arrowhead has a socket into which a wooden shaft would be inserted to form the arrow.

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**Title: Arrowhead**

[9<sup>th</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** {1500-690 BC}

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** 1946.216.4

**Catalogue Description:** Bronze arrowhead, covered in verdigris.

**Interpretation:** This is a flat bladed arrowhead of a lanceolate shape. Arrowheads of this type usually date to between 1500-690 BC.

It is difficult to tell exactly where the design of the arrowhead originates, but as the provenance information suggests it is Egyptian it was most likely from there. The arrowhead is tanged, which is common for early arrowheads. The tang was inserted into a hollow shaft, probably made of reed or wood.

**Credit Line:** Exchanged with Otago Museum.

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved

**Title: Arrowhead**

[10<sup>th</sup> arrowhead from left to right of image]

**Date:** {1200-30 BC}

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Canterbury Museum

**Accession Number:** 1946.216.7

**Catalogue Description:** Bronze arrowhead.

**Interpretation:** This appears to be a flat bladed barbed arrowhead. It is difficult to narrow the date down from 1200-30 BC as we know so little about this object. It is very likely that this arrowhead was Egyptian due to its find spot, but similar arrowheads were created by other cultures in this time period.

This arrowhead looks like it had a tang that was broken off. This would have been inserted into a reed or wood hollow shaft.

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<sup>14</sup> This is possibly Heywood Walter Seton-Kerr 1859-1938



# Harpoon Points

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**Title:** Harpoon Point

**Date:** 332 BC-641 AD

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Copper alloy

**Dimensions:** Length 71mm; Width 20mm;  
Depth 8mm

**Collection:** Auckland Museum

**Accession number:** 1947.49

**Catalogue Description:** Single prong.

**Interpretation:** Harpoons were used in Egypt from the prehistoric age, primarily for catching fish. By the time this point was made however, harpoons were also used to hunt larger animals such as the hippopotamus for sport.

There is no way to narrow down the date range for the harpoon point based on the style, as the design of harpoons is very consistent across this time period.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-77142](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-77142)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum  
Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1947.49, 28641.2, E 44.1176

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title:** Harpoon Point

**Date:** 332 BC-641 AD

**Provenance:** Egypt

**Material:** Copper alloy

**Dimensions:** Length 86mm; Width 12mm;  
Depth 5mm

**Collection:** Auckland Museum

**Accession number:** 1947.49

**Catalogue Description:** Single prong.

**Interpretation:** Harpoons like this one had been used in Egypt since the prehistoric age for catching fish and game to eat. In the period to which this harpoon point is dated, it is possible that it was used for sport rather than for catching food. Harpoons could supposedly be used to catch larger animals like a hippopotamus.

The design of the Egyptian harpoons stayed relatively consistent across this period, making it difficult to narrow the date range based on the style of the weapon.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-77141](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-77141)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum  
Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1947.49

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# Slingshots

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## Title: Slingshot Stone

Date: Circa 300 BC

Provenance: [Greek world]

Material: Stone

Dimensions: Unknown

Collection: Victoria University of Wellington Classics Collection

Accession Number: VUW Classics 2018.3

**Catalogue Description:** A small stone that was possibly used as a slingshot stone. It is pointed at the ends with a broader middle.

**Interpretation:** This particular slingshot stone is likely from the Hellenistic period. A slingshot stone would be placed in a sling and spun around and flung towards the enemy. A slinger would often carry a small shield in one hand while slinging stones at the enemy with the other. Slingers became popular in the late 5<sup>th</sup> century BC in ancient Greece, and in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC Philip II of Macedonia apparently often used slingers. This stone has an inscription on it which is illegible. It was common practice to inscribe a bolt with pictures or slogans. Examples of inscriptions include images associated with the slinger's nation, insults, or the name of the slinger.

**URL:** <https://vuw.aws.thirdlight.com/link/VUWClassicsCollections/@/folder/3#id=4>

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Victoria University of Wellington Classics Collection, 2018.3]

**Copyright:** All Rights Reserved



## Title: Slingshot, Romano British

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> century AD (Most likely 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)

Provenance: Colchester, England

Material: Stone

Dimensions: Height 49mm; Width 40mm

Collection: James Logie Memorial Collection, University of Canterbury

Accession Number: R31.12

**Catalogue Description:** Egg Shaped Stone, slightly smoothed/polished. Note attached "Found: Colchester, England at Roman fort – used for slingshot firing between Romans and British".

**Interpretation:** This object is most likely a slingshot stone as identified in the original catalogue entry. This slingshot stone was probably used for warfare, as it is larger than bolts typically used for hunting. The simple design suggests that it most likely belonged to a native Briton, rather than a Roman. The fact that it is made of stone supports this, as the Romans tended to use lead for slingshot bolts.

Roman rule in Colchester lasted from about the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. The slingshot probably dates to that period. Most of the fighting between Britons and Romans in the Colchester area took place in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. It is even possible that this bolt was used in Boudica's rebellion against the Romans when Colchester was attacked and destroyed by the Britons in 61 AD.

**Credit Line:** James Logie Memorial Collection, University of Canterbury, R31.12

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# Edged and Bladed Weapons

Edged and bladed weapons were very common in the ancient world. The majority of the weapons in this resource, however, would not have been the primary weapon of the soldier but were instead a backup to be used in very close combat fighting. The majority of ancient blades were designed for a thrusting and stabbing motion rather than cutting, but the edges were sharpened for cutting to be possible. When it comes to axes, cutting and hacking were the only possible techniques.

Many of the blades in this collection could be classed as a short-sword or a dagger, although this depends on how a dagger or short-sword is defined. For this resource, a dagger has been classified as a weapon of 300mm or less including a hilt, but as most of these examples do not have hilts it is difficult to be sure of their finished length. For many of these blades therefore, the term short sword or dagger could be interchangeable.

There are several axe / adze heads in the resource. Some of these would have primarily been used as an everyday tool rather than a weapon, although it is possible that they could be used as a weapon if need be.

In the resource the majority of the edged and bladed weapons are made of bronze, indicating that most of these artefacts date to the period before 600 BC. Bronze was replaced by iron for tools and weapons by that time.

# Swords and Daggers

---



**Title:** Blade

**Date:** Circa 500 BC

**Provenance:** [Greek world]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 302mm, Width 27mm;  
Depth 24mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Tapers to a point at one end, lozenge shaped cross section, other end (haft) is rounded and has five holes, four of which have pins inserted in them, extending out each side.

**Interpretation:** This blade was likely from a short sword. It is one of the most popular styles of blades in Greece being the Naue type II IA variant.<sup>15</sup> The current catalogue date is probably inaccurate as Naue type II bronze swords were replaced by Iron swords by 600 BC so, the date of this sword is probably earlier, likely 1200-600 BC. This blade would have been used as a thrusting weapon. It would not have been the primary weapon of a Greek soldier but more of a last resort, when it came to close combat or one's spear had broken.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-30827](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-30827)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title:** Blade

**Date:** Circa 3000-2000 BC

**Provenance:** Greece

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 168mm; Width 48mm;  
Depth 1mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Blade has a rounded point and flares out at the opposite end which has a narrow projection. One side of the blade is curved. Three holes at the lower end including one in the projection, Minoan.

**Interpretation:** This blade was part of a dagger. It appears to be a Minoan bronze type III dagger of the three rivet sub-category.<sup>16</sup> These daggers date from 3500 BC to 1650 BC, which is the early to middle Minoan period. The three rivets and shape of the dagger suggest it is more likely to date from the Middle Minoan period (1900-1650 BC). Daggers such as this are most commonly found on Crete, but it is also possible that it could have come from one of the Cycladic Islands. This dagger probably would have been used as a weapon but it may have been made for a burial as a grave good.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-30800](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-30800)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title:** Dagger

**Date:** Circa 2500 BC

**Provenance:** Mesopotamia

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 238mm; Width 39mm;  
Depth 5mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Sumerian style. Central raised ridge running length of blade. Blade thins towards edges. Two perforations, one broken, at base of blade possibly for handle attachment. Long axis tapers towards a point.

**Interpretation:** This is classed as a dagger but may have been a short sword. The fact that it is bronze and undecorated (although the hilt is gone) suggests that the blade belonged to a common Sumerian soldier, probably as a weapon of last resort. It would have been used as a thrusting and stabbing blade.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-30806](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-30806)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY

<sup>15</sup> Anthony, Snodgrass (1964), *Early Greek Armour and Weapons: from the end of the Bronze Age to 600 b.c* (Edinburgh University of Edinburgh), pp. 93-100.

<sup>16</sup> K., Branigan (1967), 'The Early Bronze Age Daggers of Crete', *The Annual of the British School at Athens*, 62, p. 214.



**Title: Blade**

**Date:** Circa 1000-500 BC

**Provenance:** Luristan, Persia

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 255mm; Width 34mm;  
Depth 3mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1938.133

**Catalogue Description:** Long axis tapers to a point. Beveling on each edge. Short stem used for hafting to handle, possibly broken.

**Interpretation:** This blade was probably for a dagger of the Luristan bronze D.1 type.<sup>17</sup>

The date for this sword is said to be between 1000-500 BC. Bronze daggers made after 1300 BC were usually ceremonial and unlikely to have been used in combat. The dagger may possibly have been made for burial as a grave good.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-90327](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-90327)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1938.133]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Blade**

**Date:** [1200-600 BC]

**Provenance:** Greece

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 290mm; Width 26mm;  
Depth 6mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Minoan. Tapers to a rounded point. Lozenge-shaped cross section. Sides flare out slightly at the base where there are two holes each side. Lip at lower end.

**Interpretation:** This blade was probably part of a short sword, although it is difficult to be precise without the hilt. It is one of the most popular styles of blades in Greece being the Naue type II IA variant.<sup>18</sup> A rough timeframe can be given for the blade from 1200-600 BC. The Naue type II came into use around 1200 BC and was replaced by iron swords by 600 BC. The blade is described as Minoan, which suggests it is from Crete. This blade would have primarily been used as a thrusting and stabbing weapon.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-30843](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-30843)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Bronze Knife**

**Date:** Bronze Age, [possibly Neolithic period]

**Provenance:** Champreveyres, Swiss Lake Dwellings

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 206mm; Width 21.6mm;  
Depth 6mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1883 and 11027

**Catalogue Description:** The object is a bronze knife with semi-circle decorations, lines and crosses decorating the top edge of the blade. The blade is curved and there is a hole in the blade. There is a blunt spike to attach a handle to the blade.

**Interpretation:** This knife belonged to a Swiss Lake Dweller. It was more likely to have been used as a tool rather than as a weapon, due to its singular edge. It is quite long for a knife however, so it is possible that it was a multi-tool that could be used for fighting if need be. Such items were common, because having two different knives meant using more bronze. It is probably dated to sometime in the Bronze Age, but we can't rule out the Neolithic period.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-8362](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-8362)

**Credit Line:** Gift of Mr James Tannock Mackelvie, London, Collection of Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira, 11027

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY

<sup>17</sup> M., Malekzadeh, A., Hasanpur, and Z., Hashemi (2017), 'Fouilles (2005 - 2006) à Sangtarashan, Luristan, Iran', *Iranica Antiqua*, LIII, pp. 61-185.

<sup>18</sup> Snodgrass, *Early Greek Armour and Weapons*, pp. 93-100.



**Title:** Blade

**Date:** [1200–600 BC]

**Provenance:** Crete [Greek world]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 241mm; Width 32mm; Depth 6mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Minoan. Tapers to a sharp point. Lozenge shaped cross section. Sides flare out slightly at the base where two holes are present each side of the central ridge. Crete.

**Interpretation:** This blade was most likely for a dagger as it is 240mm long. It is the Naue type II IA variant, which was one of the most popular styles of blades in Greece.<sup>19</sup> The Naue type II blade came into use around 1200 BC and was replaced by iron swords by 600 BC, giving a date range for this dagger. This blade is probably from Crete as it is said to be Minoan, but could also possibly come from the Cycladic Islands. This blade would have primarily been used as a stabbing and thrusting weapon.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-842219](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-842219)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title:** Blade

**Date:** Circa 500 BC

**Provenance:** [Greek world]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 236mm; Width 44mm; Depth 18mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Rounded point at one end, flat blade. Other end is corroded but has three holes with pins projecting out each side.

**Interpretation:** This blade was used as part of a dagger. Bronze daggers weren't common in Greece post 600 BC. It has a unique shape which is reminiscent of Bronze Age swords in Cyprus, Crete or the Cycladic Islands. There is not enough evidence to prove that the dagger dates to 500 BC or comes from mainland Greece.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-30858](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-30858)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira, 1985.14

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title:** Sword

**Date:** [2<sup>nd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> millenium BC]

**Provenance:** Persia

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Blade Length 311mm; Width 16mm; Whole Length 452mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** 1996.191.4

**Catalogue Description:** Sword, pommel is a waisted cylinder, probably a forgery. The researcher notes state: "The blade looks older and in worse condition than the handle and pommel. Area of 'false' oxidation where blade joins the handle. The pommel looks too 'recent' for the blade and has not oxidised at the same rate as the blade section. An inclusive radiograph has been taken".

**Interpretation:** Similar short swords of this type date to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC to the early 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC, which gives us a broad date range for the blade. The shape of the blade indicates that this sword would have primarily been used for stabbing and thrusting. The pommel attachment to the blade is known as a pastiche (imitation) and a similar sword with a later pommel addition can be found in the British museum collection. (see [https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W\\_1968-1012-20](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W_1968-1012-20))<sup>20</sup>

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-40403](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-40403)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira, 1996.191.4; AR9010

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY

<sup>19</sup> Snodgrass, Early Greek Armour and Weapons, pp. 93-100.

<sup>20</sup> Sermarini Jr., Joseph T. (2023), 'Identifying Ancient Metal Arrowheads', Last modified 6 January 2023, <https://www.forumancientcoins.com/numiswiki/view.asp?key=ancient%20metal%20arrowheads>.





**Title: Short Sword**

**Date:** N/A

**Provenance:** Greece

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 252mm; Width 23mm; Depth 5mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession number:** 1985.14

**Catalogue Description:** Short sword, long narrow straight sided blade which tapers to a rounded tip, central ridge which creates a diamond shaped cross section, flat rectangular tang which is only slightly narrower than the base of the blade, six holes are drilled through the tang arranged in two parallel lines, Minoan.

**Interpretation:** This entry is difficult to interpret without an image. The description suggests that the bronze sword is a version of the Naue type II short sword or possibly dagger.<sup>21</sup>

The blade likely predates 600 BC, as this date marks the transition to iron weapons.

If this blade is a Naue type II, it would have primarily been used as a stabbing and thrusting weapon.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-842218](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-842218)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira 51360.2

**Copyright:** N/A



**Title: Electrotype; Dagger**

**Date:** Based on Circa 1500 BC

**Provenance:** Mycenae, Greece

**Material:** Originally Bronze, Gold and Silver

**Dimensions:** Length 439mm

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E75.8

**Catalogue Description:** An electrotype Mycenaean dagger based on dagger found from a Mycenaean shaft grave. Dagger has a bronze hilt inlaid with gold and silver with bronze double-edged blade with depictions on the flat.

**Interpretation:** This dagger is known as the 'Lion Hunt dagger' and is one of several electrotype's produced by the Gilliérons in Württemberg at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This electrotype was probably made between 1900-1908. The replica is known as a 'galvanoplastic' (alternate term for electrotype). The original 'Lion Hunt dagger' is in the National Archeological Museum of Athens. The original dagger would have been made to be included in a burial.

**URL:** <https://otagomuseum.nz/collections/search-the-collection/E75.8>

**Credit Line:** Gift of the Association of Friends of the Otago Museum.

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<sup>21</sup> Snodgrass, Early Greek Armour and Weapons, pp. 93-100.

## Axes and Battleaxes

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### Title: Electrotype; Dagger

Date: Based on Circa 1500 BC

Provenance: Mycenae, Greece

Material: Originally, Bronze; Gold; Silver

Dimensions: Length 325mm

Collection: Otago Museum

Accession Number: E75.5

**Catalogue Description:** An electrotype Mycenaean dagger based on dagger found from a Mycenaean shaft grave. Dagger has a bronze hilt inlaid with gold and silver with bronze double-edged blade with depictions on the flat.

**Interpretation:** This dagger is one of several electrotype's produced by the Gilliérons in Württemberg at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The replica is known as a 'galvanoplastic' (alternate term for electrotype). This electrotype was probably made between 1900-1913. The original version of this dagger is in the National Archeological Museum of Athens. The original dagger would have been made as a grave good for a burial.

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### Title: Persian Bronze Dagger

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BC

Provenance: Modern Day Iran

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Unknown

Collection: Doug Gold Collection

Accession Number: DG no.233

**Catalogue Description:** This a well-preserved bronze dagger, possibly from the Amlash culture (in modern Iran), has a flanged hilt which would make it possible to fit it with bone or wood inlays. Known to the Greeks as acinaces, this type of dagger was almost a short sword, usually double-edged and about 40-60 cm in length. Probably of Scythian origin, acinaces were made famous by the Persians, and their use spread rapidly throughout the ancient world.

**Interpretation:** The dagger is in good condition, which may be in part due to the fact that Persian daggers tended to be ceremonial. Persians made extensive use of projectile weapons for combat. Depictions of daggers being used by Persian peoples tend to take place in mythological scenes.

**Credit Line:** N/A

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### Title: Axe

Date: Circa 1000-500 BC

Provenance: Luristan, Persia

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Length 97mm; Width 50mm; Depth 29mm

Collection: Auckland War Memorial Museum

Accession Number: 1938.133

**Catalogue Description:** Axehead. Moulded hole in top of axe to allow for hafting. Bevelled edge at opposite end at blade. Raised lip around top of axe. Appears to be cast as single item. Some surface corrosion.

**Interpretation:** The thickness, small size, and lack of a butt on this axe suggests it was most likely not used in combat. It is also unlikely to be a tool, but is most likely a funerary object. The axe was made during the Luristan bronze period.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-90328](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-90328)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1938.133]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Axe**

**Date:** Circa 1000-100 BC

**Provenance:** England

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 154mm; Width 43mm; Depth 30mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1950.120

**Catalogue Description:** Adze or Hatchet, shouldered. Open socket on both sides in haft area. Blade flares out from socket to cutting edge which is convex. [N.2.14 written on blade].

**Interpretation:** This tool was probably used as either an axe or an adze, and likely would not have been used as a weapon. It was common to have double use tools in ancient times as it saved on materials. Most finds in England of these tools tend to date from the 700-1000 BC period, but we cannot be certain of this tool's date.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-73943](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-73943)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1950.120]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Axe**

**Date:** Circa 1000-100 BC

**Provenance:** England

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 165mm; Width 51mm; Depth 28mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1950.120

**Catalogue Description:** Adze or Hatchet, shouldered. Open socket on both sides in haft area. Blade flares out from socket to cutting edge. Cutting edge convex. Wear or corrosion near the cutting edge.

**Interpretation:** This tool was probably used as both an axe or an adze, and likely would not have been used as a weapon. To save materials it was not uncommon for tools to have a double use. This axe likely dates to 1000-700 BC, as similar tools date to this period. We cannot, however, be certain.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-32870](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-32870)

**Credit Line:** [Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1950.120]

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Axe**

**Date:** Circa 1550-1069 BC

**Provenance:** Amarna, New Kingdom Egypt

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 120mm; Width 97mm; Depth 12mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** 1929.340

**Catalogue Description:** Axe head with two lugs for attachment to a pole. Excavation number TA 29-30 321. From house T.35.3.

**Interpretation:** This axe head was most likely part of a battle-axe. As the axe head was found at the site of Amarna in Egypt, the date can be narrowed down significantly, as Amarna was inhabited only for a short time. Amarna was built in 1347 BC during the eighteenth Egyptian dynasty by Pharaoh Akhenaten as his new capital. After Akhenaten's death fifteen years later in 1332 BC, Amarna was abandoned. Allowing a few years either side would give a possible date range from from the 1350s to the 1320s BC. An almost identical axe head found at Amarna now at the Brooklyn Museum is dated to circa 1353-1329. (see <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/3302>)

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-634366](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-634366)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1929.340, 4414, TA 29-30 321

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Bronze Axe**

**Date:** N/A

**Provenance:** N/A

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 160mm; Width 72mm; Depth 34mm

**Collection:** Auckland War Memorial Museum

**Accession Number:** Other number is 31677.4

**Catalogue Description:** The axe has a raised flanged socket to assist with hafting. The axe has a rectangular cross-section with a flared blade and a round cutting edge.

**Interpretation:** This bronze axe is almost identical to another bronze axe in the Auckland Museum collection. That other axe is from England and dates somewhere between 1000-100 BC. It is possible that these two axes share the same details. Similar finds in England suggest a narrower date of 1000-700 BC. This tool is not just an axe but also could be used as an adze. The double use was common as it saved materials. It was not likely used for fighting.

**URL:** [https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am\\_humanhistory-object-844813](https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collections-research/collections/record/am_humanhistory-object-844813)

**Credit Line:** Collection of Auckland Museum Tamaki Paenga Hira, 31677.4

**Copyright:** Auckland Museum CC BY



**Title: Flanged Axe Blade**

**Date:** N/A

**Provenance:** England

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 115mm; Width 66mm; Depth 18mm

**Collection:** Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand

**Accession Number:** AP000289

**Catalogue Description:** A small but heavy flanged axe blade. Cutting edge convex and splined with chips missing.

**Interpretation:** This axe is relatively similar to many axes held in the British Museum which date to the Bronze Age. This axe is probably from the early to middle Bronze Age, as it does not have a socket. It was probably used primarily as a tool, but could have been used as a weapon if need be.

**URL:** <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1135928>

**Credit Line:** Ex Mantell Collection

**Copyright:** Te Papa Tongarewa. All Rights Reserved



**Title: Axe Blade**

**Date:** N/A

**Provenance:** England

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Length 142mm; Width 91mm; Depth 11mm

**Collection:** Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand

**Accession Number:** AP000290

**Catalogue Description:** A large bronze flat axe blade, tapering from bevel to a square butt. Cutting edge convex.

**Interpretation:** This axe likely dates to the Bronze Age. It shares many similarities to English axes in the British Museum which date to that period. Axes like this one, without a socket, usually come from the early to middle Bronze Age. This axe was probably used primarily as a tool, although it could have been used as a weapon if required.

**URL:** <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1135930>

**Credit Line:** Ex Mantell Collection

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## Other Bladed Weapons

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### Title: Socketed Axe Blade

Date: N/A

Provenance: England

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Length 56mm; Width 30mm; Depth 39mm

Collection: Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand

Accession Number: AP000288

**Catalogue Description:** Small socketed axe blade cast with a loop to assist tying blade to the haft. Damaged on butt and loop. Cutting edge convex.

**Interpretation:** This socketed axe is similar to many axes from England that are held in the British Museum. Socketed axes are usually dated to between 1000-800 BC, as this seems to be when they began being made in England. This axe was probably a tool, but it could have been used as a weapon if needed.

**URL:** <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1135926>

**Credit Line:** Ex Mantell Collection

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### Title: Adze Blade

Date: [Circa 1350–1330 BC]

Provenance: Amarna, New Kingdom Egypt

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Length 156mm; Width 49mm; 7mm

Collection: Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand

Accession Number: FE002353

**Catalogue Description:** A flat copper adze blade with a splayed bevelled cutting head, tapering to a round hafting end. Entire surface covered with verdigris. This bronze adze blade was obtained by Egypt Exploration Society excavators at Tell-el-Amarna in their 1928/29 season and was found in association with the whetstone FE002354 and was given the excavation number T.A.28/29. 284.

**Interpretation:** This adze is from Amarna which means its date can possibly be narrowed down to a range of 15 years from 1347-1332 BC as Amarna was only inhabited for this short time. Amarna was built in 1347 BC during the eighteenth Egyptian dynasty by Pharaoh Akhenaten as his new capital. After Akhenaten's death fifteen years later in 1332 BC, Amarna was abandoned. This adze would have probably been a tool for one of the inhabitants of the city.

**URL:** <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/170319>

**Credit Line:** Gift of the Egypt Exploration Society, 1929

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### Title: Gladius Votive

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD

Provenance: Roman Empire

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Length 45mm

Collection: James Logie Memorial Collection, University of Canterbury

Accession Number: JLMC 224.15

**Catalogue Description:** A votive offering in the shape of a Gladius (Roman short sword). Blade and hilt made of bronze, and it is only a very short 45mm long.

**Interpretation:** This miniature votive sword would have been used as an offering to the gods. Associate Professor Victor Parker, University of Canterbury, suggests that it could have been offered in thanks for success in battle, for wealth won in war, or for the safe return home of a soldier. A gladius, which the design of this votive copies, was a short sword mainly used as a thrusting and stabbing weapon for close quarters fighting. This votive likely belonged to a person living in the Roman Empire, possibly a soldier.

**Credit Line:** Donated by John and Rosie Wood, 2015

**Copyright:** University of Canterbury CC BY

# Armour

Armour in the ancient world was common but was usually very expensive and thus it was predominantly worn by wealthier individuals. People of the lower classes would go into battle with minimal protection. There were many different types of armour pieces made. The most common were the helmet, the cuirass or corslet, and greaves.

All of the pieces of armour in this resource are Greek in style and the majority are bronze helmets. Post Dark Age Greek bronze helmets came into use in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century BC and many different styles emerged after this period. Helmets could be designed to maximise protection but could also be designed to give the wearer more flexibility, reducing the protection they offered.



# Suits of Armour



## Title: Samnite Bronze Suite of Armour

Date: Circa 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC

Provenance: [Southern Italy]

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Heights: Helmet 260mm;  
Breastplate 302mm; Taller Greave 403mm

Collection: Doug and Anemarie Gold  
Collection

Accession Number: DG 308

**Catalogue Description:** A Samnite bronze suite of armour fashioned of hammered sheet comprising an "Attic type" helmet, corslet and greaves. The suite's corslet consists of a breastplate and a back plate with stylized anatomy with clavicles pectorals and now missing nipple ornaments and a rectus abdominus. The back plate also has an erector spinae.

**Interpretation:** The Samnites were an Italic tribe from Southern Italy. In the late 4<sup>th</sup> to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC they were at war with the Romans, who subjugated them in 321 BC. It is possible that this suit of armour was worn in battle against the Romans as it dates to this period.

The Attic helmet in this suite is of a style developed by the Athenians in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and is the type of helmet that the goddess Athena is usually depicted wearing. It is thought that the Attic helmet became popular around 530 BC in Greece. Most Attic helmets were not much more than a skull cap by themselves, but this helmet has hinged cheek pieces attached. There is no neck guard attached to this helmet, although they were a common feature. The Attic helmet and the Pseudo-Attic helmet were commonly used by the Romans until 400 AD.

**Credit Line:** Ex private collection, 1970's; ex Christie's, New York, 13 December 2013, Lot 90.

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## Title: Etruscan Bronze Helmet and Chest Armour

Date: Circa 500 to 450 BC

Provenance: Northern Italy, Etruria

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: Helmet length 241mm; Both  
breast and back-plate Length 279mm

Collection: Doug and Anemarie Gold  
Collection

Accession Number: DG 338

**Catalogue Description:** A rare bronze Negau-type helmet and breast and back-plates, unusual for the golden finish. It was found in a river so there is no green patina. Negau is a town in Slovenia where such helmets were found. The helmet is comprised of a hammered sheet with high-domed crown, a comb-shaped ridge running front to back and a carinated area above the rim. The rim is flanged and decorated with impressed egg-and-dart motifs. The area above the carination is decorated with impressed feathered plume motifs with two perforations along the rim and an additional ornament at the crown with two inverted teardrop-shaped appliques, possibly once fitted with feathers or other decorative attachments. There is an owner's mark on the helmet and further teardrop-shaped appliques at the crest. The designs of the breasts and backplate each

present three encircled convex discs, cut-out ridged plaques riveted to the upper edge, with two wide hinges for the shoulder straps. Both plates have a pair of attached loops at the lower ends, one pair with suspended rings and attachments.

**Interpretation:** The Negau helmet appeared first in central Italy in the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century BC and was invented by the Etruscans. The helmet was later adopted by the Romans and used until around the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. This particular Negau type helmet is probably the later Vetulonia-type.

The cuirass is known as a triple-disc cuirass (for obvious reasons) and is usually attributed to the Samnites (an ancient Southern-Italic tribe). The Samnites are often depicted wearing the triple-disc cuirass in art, and most finds come from associated Samnite areas. However, there is some evidence that the Etruscans also used the triple-disc cuirass, though this seems to have been less common, making it possible this armour could be a rare example of the Etruscan form. The original catalogue entry presents the helmet and cuirass as a set. This is possible, but it is also possible that these two pieces of armour just happened to be found together.

**Credit Line:** Ex-private South Carolina collection; ex-Artemis Gallery, 16 March 2017, Lot 17.

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# Helmets

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**Title:** Helmet

**Date:** [Circa 700-650 BC]

**Provenance:** Greece

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Height 230mm

**Collection:** Otago Museum

**Accession Number:** E28.355

**Catalogue Description:** Made from a thin sheet of bronze hammered over a peg into a bowl-like shape and annealed for extra strength and resilience. Dark green patina. Concave profile, neck-guard, and punched holes along the edges which would have been used to secure a decorative trim or padded lining. Has wire loops for the attachment of (horsehair) crest. [Further notes on Otago Museum website].

**Interpretation:** The Corinthian helmet was one of the most dominant helmets during its lifetime, but was only really used in Greece. The shape was favored due to its strength and the large amount of the wearer's head it protected. The helmet was used from the early 8<sup>th</sup> century BC until the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. It was eventually replaced by lighter helmets, as it was difficult to see and hear in the Corinthian helmet.

This particular helmet appears to fall into Snodgrass' Group 1 of the Corinthian helmet, which means that it dates from 700 BC to 650 BC. It probably dates to no later than 650 BC as different versions of the helmet were made past this date.<sup>22</sup> The fact that this helmet is an early version of the Corinthian helmet suggests it is probably from the Peloponnese. This version of the helmet, made from one bronze piece, would have been very rigid and uncomfortable to wear<sup>23</sup>.

**URL:** <https://otagomuseum.nz/collections/search-the-collection/E28.355>

**Credit Line:** Previously owned by Sir Guy Laking

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**Title:** Greek Bronze Pilos Helmet

**Date:** Circa 400 to 300 BC

**Provenance:** [Greek world]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Height 265mm

**Collection:** Doug and Anemarie Gold Collection

**Accession Number:** DG 333

**Catalogue Description:** A Greek bronze helmet of the Pilos type, of conical form with a recessed carinated band around the lower portion. It has a scrolled bronze crest attachment at the top and applique 'wheels' at the sides.

**Interpretation:** The Pilos helmet is so named because replicates a felt shepherds' hat, also called a Pilos. There is debate whether the term Pilos referred to the shape, rather than the name of the helmet, as it seems the felt hat was also worn in battle. An early reference to the helmet comes from Thucydides (Greek Historian from 460-400 BC) who said that the Spartans adopted the Pilos as their helmet.

The Pilos was a very light helmet and gave little protection except against downwards sword strikes and from arrow fire. The helmet became popular during the Peloponnesian War, and from 450 BC we definitely find examples of the helmet in bronze. The helmet was still in use up to 150 BC and was adopted

<sup>22</sup> Snodgrass, *Early Greek Armour and Weapons*, pp. 20–28.

<sup>23</sup> Patricia Hannah, 2008. 'A Corinthian Helmet. Otago Museum, Dunedin'. *Schalia: Studies in Classical Antiquity*, Vol 17: 153–163.



**Title: Greek Bronze Phrygian Helmet**

**Date:** Circa 350 to 300 BC

**Provenance:** [Greek world]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Height 406mm

**Collection:** Doug and Anemarie Gold Collection

**Accession Number:** DG 270

**Catalogue Description:** A Greek helmet of the Phrygian type made of heavy hammered sheet with hinged face-guards modelled in the form of a beard and moustache. The cheek-pieces covered most of the eyes, nose and mouth. Less than 30 of this type are known to exist today.

**Interpretation:** The Phrygian helmet appeared around 400 BC and was prominent mostly in the Hellenistic period, dying out around 100 BC. The high crown of the helmet is similar to a Phrygian cap from where it gets its name. The helmet was most popular in Ionia, Thrace and Macedonia. It seems to have been particularly favored by Alexander the Great and his father Philip II. Given the date of this particular object, and the large number of Phrygian helmets found related to Alexander and Philip, this helmet could have belonged to one of the two men or one of Alexander's successors.

**Credit Line:** Ex private collection, Basel, 1970's; ex Christie's New York, 8 June 2012, Lot 85.

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**Title: Corinthian Helmet**

**Date:** Circa 650 to 600 BC

**Provenance:** Southern Italy

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Height 200mm; Width 180mm

**Collection:** Doug and Anemarie Gold Collection

**Accession Number:** DG 263

**Catalogue Description:** This Corinthian helmet is thought to be the only surviving example of an early Greek workshop in Southern Italy. The helmet is of domed form with a flaring neck-guard and pointed cheek-guards. The almond-shaped eye holes are peaked at the outer corner with an incised lotus flower at each end. The perimeter is edged with two rows of dots framing a line of punched tongues. There's an incised rosette at the centre of each cheek-guard. These relatively simple upright bell-form examples with perforated borders and broad protruding nose guards, are known from a few Peloponnesian workshops that are well-represented among the dedications at Olympia. There are a few helmets of this early date already being made in the Greek colonies and this helmet belongs to this group.

**Interpretation:** This Corinthian helmet possibly falls into Snodgrass' group 3, but it has some similarities with other groups and is difficult to categorize.<sup>24</sup> Its unique nature suggests that this helmet was a slightly later design. The Corinthian helmet was one of the most dominant types of helmet during its lifetime, but was mostly only used in

<sup>24</sup> Snodgrass, *Early Greek Armour and Weapons*, pp. 20-28.

by other cultures such as Italian and Celtic peoples. In the period to which this particular helmet is dated (400-300 BC), the style was used very heavily in Macedonia, so there is a chance the helmet is of Macedonian origins. The catalogue entry indicates that there is an ancient bronze repair to the rivet, perhaps an indication of how valuable items of armour were cared for and re-used.

**Credit Line:** Ex European private collection formed in the 1970's; ex Artemis Gallery, 2 June 2016, Lot 9B.

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Greece. Given the provenance of Southern Italy, this helmet may be a rare example of a non-Greek version. The Corinthian helmet was favored due to its strength and the large amount of the head it protected. The helmet was introduced in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century BC in its earliest form and lasted well into the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. It was difficult to see and hear in the Corinthian helmet, and eventually it was replaced by lighter helmets.

**Credit Line:** Purchased in Munich in 2007; ex Harlan J Berk, Chicago.

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**Title: Pseudo-Corinthian Helmet**

**Date:** Circa 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC

**Provenance:** [Greek world]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Unknown

**Collection:** Doug and Anemarie Gold Collection

**Accession Number:** DG 337

**Catalogue Description:** The bronze helmet has elegant almond-shaped false eye holes and a spear shaped nose and molded eyebrows extending to the crown of the ridge. Stylised curled hair locks over the brow and a large palmette flanked by slithering snakes and a decorative border around the eyeholes, cheek-pieces and helmet perimeter have all been highlighted in white (added later). The combination of plant and animal imagery on the helmet is largely due to the Greco-oriental repertoire which spread through Greece due to trade with the Near East. The helmet is not meant to be worn over the face, but on the top of the head.

**Interpretation:** The Pseudo-Corinthian helmet was popular in Italy and was used throughout the Roman period. The style was also used in Greece, but it was not popular. The helmet gets its name from its similarity to the shape of the Corinthian helmet, but it is not worn over the face like the Corinthian. Instead, this helmet was worn on the top of one's head, only really protecting the wearer above the eyes.

Due to the date this Pseudo-Corinthian helmet is given, it was probably from Greece rather than from Italy. This is reinforced by the decoration. The helmet did not really provide much protection but was used as part of a shift from heavy helmets to light helmets in Greece, which occurred sometime in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC.

**Credit Line:** Ex Axel Guttman collection and exhibited at the Guttman Museum in Berlin; ex Artemis Gallery, 19 May 2017, Lot 0007C.

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**Title: Illyrian Greek Bronze Helmet**

**Date:** Circa 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC

**Provenance:** [Eastern Mediterranean]

**Material:** Bronze

**Dimensions:** Height 267mm

**Collection:** Doug and Anemarie Gold Collection

**Accession Number:** DG 190

**Catalogue Description:** An Illyrian type helmet manufactured in Greece from a single sheet of bronze (which required a great degree of technical sophistication from the smith). Of high-domed form, it has long cheek-guards and an everted neck-guard. The perimeter of the cheek-guards and the front of the helmet are finely incised with beading design. The rivet on the front was used to for attaching a horse-hair crest and the two raised parallel ridges on the dome form a base for the crest. A layer of leather or linen padding would have lined the inside for comfort and to provide further protection from blows to the head.

**Interpretation:** The design of the Illyrian helmet was likely Peloponnesian in origin and was popular in Greece up until the sixth century BC. The first group of Illyrian helmets were made from two bronze pieces from 700-640 BC. This particular helmet was made



from a single bronze sheet, and therefore dates to after 640 BC. This helmet also has no ear cutouts, so it is probably not a late version of the Illyrian helmet. The date of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC is reasonable.

The Illyrian helmet was very popular in Northern Greece and the Balkans from the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Its use had died out in Greece by the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, but it continued to be used in the Balkans for several centuries after this. The continued popularity of the style in that region is what gave it the name 'Illyrian', after one of the larger Balkan tribes. Since this helmet is probably from the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, it is difficult to say whether it was used in Greece or the Balkans.

**Credit Line:** Ex N. Philips private collection, New York, 1980's

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# Glossary

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**Achaemenid:** Dynasty of the Persian Empire which spanned from Asia Minor to India, lasted 550-330 BC.

**Adze:** An adze is similar to an axe but with an arched blade that is horizontal, it is also used for cutting.

**Amlash:** The word Amlash refers to a range of different ancient cultures, materials and periods in Northern Iran.

**Attic:** The term Attic refers to someone or something from Attica which is a region in Greece and is where Athens is located.

**Bilobate:** This is a shape of arrowhead divided into two halves by a midrib, usually in a leaf shape.

**Butt:** A butt is the opposite side of the axe to the blade.

**Corinthian:** The term Corinthian refers to someone or something from Corinth which is a city in the Northern Peloponnese in Greece.

**Corslet:** A corslet is a piece of protective armour for one's torso.

**Cuirass:** A cuirass is a piece of armour which includes a breastplate and backplate.

**Cycladic Islands:** Group of islands located in the lower Aegean Sea, East of the Peloponnese. Some of the more well-known islands are Mykonos, Naxos and Delos.

**Deltoid:** An arrowhead that is roughly triangular in shape.

**Etruscans:** The Etruscans were a people located in Northern Italy (Tuscany) from the early to late 1<sup>st</sup> millennium. Their civilization came to an end after being conquered by the Romans.

**Greaves:** These are pieces of armour that protect the lower half of one's legs.

**Hilt:** The hilt is the handle of a tool or weapon; in the context of the resource, it is usually for a blade.

**Haft:** A haft is usually the handle for an axe or spear.

**Illyrians:** The Illyrian were an ancient tribe located in Illyria in the Balkans.

**Lanceolate:** This is a shape of an arrowhead which is similar to the shape of a leaf.

**Lugs:** This is a protrusion from an object in which something is attached to, in this context it is for an axe handle.

**Luristan:** This was an area in Persia and more specifically in Media. It is currently a region in modern day Iran.

**Macedonian:** The Macedonians were an ancient people from Northern Greece in the region known as Macedonia. They were similar to the Greeks but had some differences like language. The Macedonians are most widely known for their conquest of the Persian Empire under Alexander the Great.

**Minoan:** The Minoans were a Bronze Age Civilization from Crete who expanded into parts of the Aegean Sea also. Their civilization is said to last from 3000-1100 BC.

**Mycenaean:** The Mycenaean are the name given to the Greek civilization in the late Bronze Age. The name comes from the most famous city of the civilization, Mycenae.

**Naue Type II:** This is the name for one of the most popular sword types in ancient Greece. There are also different variants of this type of sword. It is named after Julius Naue.

**Negau:** this is the German name for the village of Negova in Slovenia. In the context of the resource, it is the name of a type of Etruscan helmet as many helmets of that type were found in Negova (Negau).

**Phrygian:** This term is used to describe someone or something from Phrygia which was a region in ancient Asia Minor. It is also the name given to a cap from the ancient world.

**Pommel:** This is the rounded end of a handle of a weapon such as a sword.

**Rib-bladed:** This is an arrow that has a midrib, it is usually a bilobate arrowhead.

**Scythian:** The Scythians were a nomadic people that were situated around the Pontic Steppe from about the 7<sup>th</sup> century to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

**Sumerian:** The Sumerians were a civilisation in Mesopotamia who were active from about the 5<sup>th</sup> millennium to the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC.

**Swiss Lake Dwellers:** These were groups of people who lived by the lakes in modern day Switzerland from around 4000-800 BC.

**Tang:** A tang is a projection from the bottom of an arrowhead which is used to insert it into a hollow shaft.

**Trilobate:** A trilobate is a three-sided arrowhead which means it has three blades.

**Vetulonia:** This was an Etruscan town located in modern day Tuscany. In the context of this resource, it was a name given to a variant of the Negau type helmet.

## Suggested Reading

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